

Sponsored Research Business Activity (SRBA)

Presentation to Procurement 2000 Conference

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Agent for Change

NASA completed an assessment of Grants through the Grants Management Process Team (GMPT) in early 1998

Overall results of assessment:

- Communicate announcement/award schedules and stick to them, improve information access
- Shorten length of process
- Reduce burden of process
- Present a common face within NASA & support interagency commonality
- Follow through mechanism for positive change management



Proposed Solution

Establish common standards within Programs and across NASA:

- Standard Web-based NRA and NRA Proposers Guide
- Revise common grant "shell"
- Single review point for solicitations, establish consistency
- Form Headquarters Grants Steering Committee for program buy-in
- Establish Inter-Center Grants Working Group with NASA Grant Officers
- Single peer review support contractor for Headquarters Program Offices



Schedules

Standard Timelines:

- NRA Release to Selection Notification
 (includes 90 days for proposal receipt/150 days for selection announcement)
- Notification of Selections to Award Pkg Submittal to Grant Office 29 Days
- Award Pkg Submittal to Grant Office to Award of Funding
 17 Days

Implementation Actions:

- Use standard schedules in up front program planning
- Consolidated HQ program peer review contract awarded (2/00)
- Common format and content for award documentation
 - selection statement
 - PR

Consolidation of grant award function from Kennedy Space Center, Stennis Space Center and Johnson Space Center to Glenn Research Center



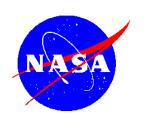
Improving the Process (Reducing the Burden)

Recipients

- Permit single certification on NRA proposal cover page
- •Electronic Progress Reports pursuant to the HQ Consolidated Peer Review Contract
- •NRA Proposers Guide

•NASA

- •Electronic 1674 Delegation Form
- •Revise Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook
- Update MOU w/ONR



Interagency Cooperation and Community Involvement:

<u>Feb. 2000</u> Sam Armstrong appointed to Goldin's Senior Advisor to expand NASA's partnership activities with universities, the U.S. Defense Dept., NIH, NSF and other federal agencies.

NASA representation on the IAEGC (est by the National Partnership for Reinventing Government, formerly the National Performance Review)

Participation in the Federal Commons effort

Communication with COGR, NCURA, SRA

Representation at Federal Demonstration Partnership



Follow-Through

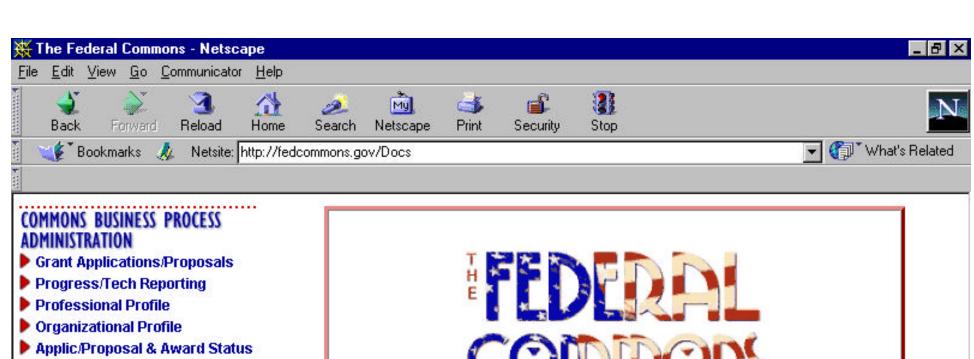
Sponsored Research Business Activity (SRBA)

- Common Link among HQ Program Offices, Center Grant Offices and Research Business Community
- Functions:
 - Develop & manage metrics
 - Implement "common face"
 - Build cross-program efficiency and synergy
- Collaborate with:
 - Steering Committee Program Office
 - Working Group Center Grants Officers
 - Interagency groups



Federal Commons

- Trans-Governmental EGA
 - Providing a common face of the Federal government for Electronic Grant Administration
- Genesis:
 - Grant Recipients
 - reduce the burden of conducting business electronically with the Federal government
 - Federal Agencies
 - provide solutions to support a diverse grantee community
 - Federal Government
 - P.L. 106-107





ABOUT THE FEDERAL COMMONS



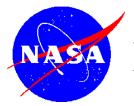
Welcome to the FEDERAL COMMONS, the common face of Government to the Grantee Organization Community for the purposes of pre- and post-award administration.

Please select a category from the menu on your left. If you are new to the FEDERAL COMMONS, we suggest you read "About the Federal Commons" and "Help for New Users" before continuing.



Federal Commons Thru the Grants Life-Cycle

- Solicitation/Announcement (EPS)
- Application/Proposal
- Award
- Status Checking
- Progress Reporting/Renewal
- Closeout
- Payment



Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999

(PL 106-107)

"What this legislation says is, come on, fellows, let us get our act together and let us have the locals tell us what we need to know in a uniform way, rely on that, and get that grant money out to them without them wasting dollars on administrative procedures"

Remarks by Rep. Steny Hoyer (MD), co sponsor, prior to passage of the Federal Financial Assistance Improvement Act of 1999. (Cong. Rec. H11238)

President Clinton signed the bill 20 Nov 1999



PL 106/107

Findings

- More than 600 grant programs
- Federal administrative requirements are duplicative, burdensome, or conflicting, which impedes cost-effective service delivery at the local level
- Grant recipients are dealing with increasingly complex problems that require delivery and coordination of many kinds of services

Purposes

- Improve the effectiveness and performance of federal grant programs
- Simplify grant application and reporting requirements
- Improve service delivery to the public
- Facilitate greater coordination among those responsible for delivering such services.



PL 106/107 Requirements (Within 18 Months)

OMB to coordinate the development of:

- a common application and reporting system
- an interagency process for addressing ways to streamline and simplify grant administration processes
- improved interagency and intergovernmental coordination of information collection and data sharing related to grant programs
- improvements in timeliness, completeness, and quality of information federal agencies receive from recipients.

Federal Agencies must develop plans to:

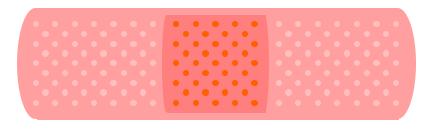
- demonstrate use, or plans for use of common application and reporting system
- allow recipients to electronically apply for, and report on use of agency grant funds
- demonstrate active participation in the interagency process
- streamline and simplify administrative and reporting procedures for agency programs
- ensure recipients provide timely, complete and high quality information in response to federal reporting requirements
- designate a lead agency official to carry out agency responsibilities relative to the Act



PL 106/107 Problems

- The Act does not provide resources for implementation
 - Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates \$5-\$10 million between 2000-2004 for agencies to develop and report on plans
 - \$1-\$2 million for OMB to oversee the interagency effort
- Time is not on our side
 - Significant regulation changes require public comment periods and consultation with state and local officials
 - The Act conflicts with other statutory deadlines
 - PL 106/107 requires electronic proposal and reporting by 20 May 2001
 - Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA) of 1998 requires electronic submission by 21 October 2003

Correcting Problems in the Law



- OMB is required to submit to Congress a report recommending changes in the law to improve its effectiveness. Due 5/2001.
- GAO evaluation of the Act's effectiveness. Due 11/2005.



Revision to OMB Circular A-110

- OMB Circular A-110 is incorporated in Section B of the Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook
- Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations



FOIA Request for Research Data

- A-110 Revision effective 6 November 1999
- Over 12,000 comments on OMB's proposed rules of February and August
- §_.36 Intangible Property re FOIA request for research data
- Federal Register/Vol. 65. No. 52 March 16
 NASA Interim Final Rule GN 00-01



What does A-110 say?

"(d)(1) In addition, in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for research data relating to published research findings produced under an award that were used by the Federal Government in developing an agency action that has the force and effect of law, the Federal awarding agency shall request, and the recipient shall provide, within a reasonable time, the research data so that they can be made available to the public through the procedures established under the FOIA."



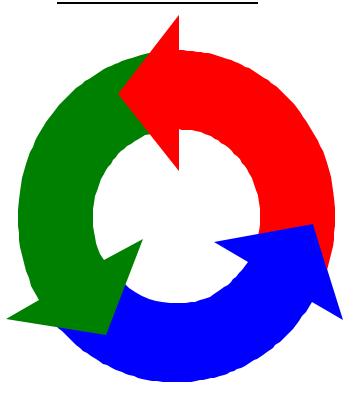
FOIA Payment

Reality Check

FOIA provisions state that "Documents shall be furnished without any charge or at a charge reduced...if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester." (5 USC §552(a)(4)(A)(iii)

(In such instances, the Agency would still reimburse the recipient, but absorb the costs)

OMB's View





Electronic Grants Contacts

 IAEGC http://www.financenet.gov/iaegc.htm

Federal Commons
 http://fedcommons.gov

 HQ Research Opportunities http://www.nasa.gov/research.html



Questions?

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